SOUTH VIET NAM
in struggle

SUPPLEMENT TO No 84
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NFL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SVNR PRG ISSUE STATEMENT RESPONDING TO

THE APPEAL OF THE VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Editor's Note — *The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on December 14 issued a statement responding to the Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the Government of the Democratic Republique of Viet Nam.*

The statement reads in full as follows :

"OVER the last ten years, the US imperialits have pursued a most brutal war of aggression in history with a view to turning South Viet Nam into a US new-type colony and military base, and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam.

The South Vietnamese people, united millions as one man under the national salvation banner of the NFL, have been fighting undauntedly and heroically against the US aggressors, winning ever greater and all-round victories.

Having sustained defeat in its "special war," the US massively dispatched American expeditionary troops to South Viet Nam, at the same time launched a war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in the hope of maintaining their neo-colonialist domination over South Viet Nam. The South Viet Nam people and army, however, have foiled the US "local war" at its apex. Especially their Spring 1968 general offensive and widespread uprisings have driven the US and its puppets to a difficult and passive situation.

The heroic North Vietnamese people and armed forces have bravely fought, dealing due punishing blows at the US aggressors, defeating the latter's war of destruction, defending the independence, sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, showing their determination to accomplish the task of the great-rear toward the national salvation cause.

The great victories of the Vietnamese people in both zones of the country forced the US to stop unconditionally its bombing and strafing against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to participate in the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

However, with the illusion of winning a position of strength, the US has striven its hardest to carry out its "Vietnamization" program so as to prolong the war of aggression in South Viet Nam by very barbarous and perfidious means, piling up its crimes everywhere in South Viet Nam, deliberately hindering the progress of the Paris Conference.

Faced with the danger of bankrupcy of the "Vietnamization" program in South Viet Nam, the Nixon administration has extended the war to Cambodia and intensified the "special war" in Laos. Since May 1970, the US has also stepped up its bombings, strafings, and reconnaissance and commando activities against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The US bombardments on November 21 against densely populated areas of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, including areas close to the Hanoi capital, are extremely impudent acts which create a very serious situation in Viet Nam. Nevertheless, the US imperialists have met powerful returning blows from the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples. They are bogging down ever more deeply on the three battlefronts of Indochina.

Though sternly condemned by the peoples of the three Indochinese countries, the progressive people in the USA and the peoples all over the world, US President Nixon continues to brandish war threats, giving the US the right to carry out constant reconnaissance flights and to attack at will the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to demand the North Viet Nam people to give up their sacred task of helping their Southern kith and kin in the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation and to demand the South Vietnamese people to give up their fight while hundreds of thousands of US troops still remain in South Viet Nam. This obviously is the argument of a pirate. It has laid bare the US ruling circles' "peace" and "humanism" swindles. This is the most brazen challenge so far made by the Nixon administration to the Vietnamese people, the Indochinese peoples, the progressive people in the United States and peace- and justice-loving people all over the world.

In face of the new acts and schemes of the US imperialists who are stubbornly stepping up their war of aggression, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam once again solemnly declare: Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one; independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam are inviolable and sacred national rights of the Vietnamese people. The US must stop for ever all its war acts against the DRVN, withdraw totally and unconditionally the US troops and the troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam, cast off its Thieu — Ky — Khiem warlike henchmen, let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs. So far as these sacred rights and aspirations have not yet been achieved, the South Vietnamese people will continue their struggle till final victory. The South Vietnamese people and army will resolutely not tolerate any US military venturous acts against the DRVN and crimes against their Northern kith and kin.

The South Vietnamese people earnestly cherish peace, but this must be peace in independence and freedom. Implementing the sacred Last wishes of Great President Ho Chi Minh, responding to the Appeal of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued on December 10, 1970, the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam are resolved to mobilize the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces and people, persevere in and step up their sacred resistance against the US aggressors, for national salvation, to foil the US policy of "Vietnamization of the war," to fight so that the US withdraw all its troops and the puppet army and administration topple, thus liberating the South, defending the North and proceeding toward the peaceful reunification of the country.

The South Vietnamese people are determined to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people throughout the country and the brother peoples of Cambodia and Laos, strengthen their solidarity and mutual assistance, together to fight and to win, with the resolve to drive the US aggressors out of the Indochinese peninsula, win back complete independence and freedom for each country and contribute to the safeguard of peace in Asia and the world.

Neither impudent threats nor brutal war moves could shake the iron-like determination of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam. The more frenziedly the Nixon administration intensifies and spreads its war of aggression, the heavier setbacks it suffers.

The National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam firmly believe that the justice- and peace-loving governments and peoples in the world and the progressive people in the United States will take active measures in order to stop the bloody hands of the Nixon clique, and increase their support and assistance to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people and the peoples of Cambodia and Laos till final victory."

SPEECH

DELIVERED BY CHAIRMAN NGUYEN HUU THO OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE NFL CC AT THE GRAND MEETING MARKING 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NFL

(DECEMBER 20, 1970)

Mrs and Messrs of the Presidium,
Mrs and Messrs Delegates and friends,
Dear compatriots and fighters,

TEN years ago, with the victories of the "concerted uprising" in 1959-1960 and in seething revolutionary mettle of the South Vietnamese people, the National Front for Liberation was founded, entrusted with the mission to lead the resistance war of the South Vietnamese people. That was a political event of paramount importance, having a far-reaching influence on the development of our people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation.

In the last ten years, under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, our armed forces and people have united closely, fought with great valiancy, foiled all aggressive plans of the enemy and won ever bigger and all-sided victories.

On this glorious historic day, our heart filled with pride and confidence, we are resolved to push ahead with the victories recorded, and advance to new and yet bigger victories, in order to fulfil meritoriously our national task and international obligation, and be worthy of the solicitude given us by President Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of the whole Vietnamese nation, and worthy of the trust placed in us by our blood-sealed countrymen and combatants in the North who have always stood shoulder to shoulder with us in the fight against the common enemy, and worthy of the valuable support, assistance and encouragement given us by our brothers and friends in all continents.

I — TEN YEARS OF UNION AND COMBATS UNDER THE GLORIOUS BANNER OF THE NFL WERE WORTH TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE GRAND VICTORIES IN ALL DOMAINS

Since the signature of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, immediately taking the place of French colonialists, the US imperialists impudently intervened to South Viet Nam, then undertook an armed aggression against our country in the hope to make it a military base and a US neo-colony.

They established the puppet Ngo Dinh Diem administration as instrument for savage repression of our people, pitilessly slaughtering all the patriots, partisans of the peaceful reunification of our Fatherland. In 1959-60, our compatriots rose up as one against this oppression. By political means matched to the armed struggle, the *dong khoi* (concerted uprising-*Ed.*) has foiled the unilateral war driven by the Americans with the complicity of Ngo Dinh Diem.

To save their seriously shaken rule, in 1961 the US imperialists started "special war" against the South Vietnamese people. They beefed up the puppet army and administration to control rural areas through a system of "strategic hamlets" and attempted to "search and destroy" the nascent revolutionary armed forces of the South Viet Nam. But the South Viet Nam armed forces and people defeated the enemy's State policy of "strategic hamlets" and trounced a sizeable part of the puppet army. The military victories coupled with the high tide of political struggle of the South Vietnamese people brought about the collapse of the dictatorial and fascist Ngo Dinh Diem regime and many stooge administrations of the US that succeeded it.

The "special war" strategy of the US imperialists thus failed ignominiously.

Extremely stubborn and bellicose by nature, the US imperialists in early 1965 massively sent US expeditionary troops to South Viet Nam, switched to the "local war" strategy and launched an air-naval war of destruction against the northern part of our country, and at the same time intensified their intervention and aggression in Laos while unceasingly threatening the independence and neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

With the deployment of more than one million US, puppet and satellite troops, the US launched two "dry-season strategic offensives" aimed mainly at "searching and destroying the main force units" of the People's Liberation Armed Forces in order to breaking the backbone of our resistance war. In response to the historic appeal of March 22, 1965 of the Front Central Committee, our armed forces and people dealt them hard blows in both the dry seasons of 1965-1966 and 1966-1967, obtained many big victories on all battlefields and drove half a million US troops into a very precarious situation.

In the northern part of our country, the US imperialists' war of destruction met with stiff riposte from our heroic countrymen and combatants. Every criminal step of war escalation taken by the enemy was shattered.

At a time when we were winning repeated victories and the enemy sustaining successive setbacks, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation held an extraordinary Congress and adopted a Political Program of the Front. That Program is an appeal for national salvation and construction, faithfully reflecting the will, aspiration and determination of all our people and combatants in the South, and is a torch blazing the path for the South Vietnamese people to attain complete victory.

In the light of the Front's Political Program and bringing into play their victorious and strong position and initiative, in Spring 1968 the South Viet Nam armed forces and people opened an earth-shaking general offensive and simultaneous uprising, dealt thunder blows at the US and its puppets, hit at a time almost all cities, province capitals, nerve organs, military bases and important supply bases of the enemy, wiped out or disbanded a big part of their forces, won victories of a strategic significance that shook the United States and the world. Those victories brought on a new situation on the battlefront, tipped the balance of forces in our favour, opened a new stage in our people's fight, and created prerequisite for the complete victory of our armed forces and people.

The great victories of the armed forces and people in the South together with the glorious successes of these in the North have driven the US and its puppets deeper into their position of strategic defensive. The US imperialists were forced to stop unconditionally their bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, accepted the holding of the four-party conference in Paris with the participation of the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, started "de-Americanizing" the war under the Johnson administration, and tacitly admitted that their "local war" strategy had been basically thwarted.

Our people's political and armed forces have consolidated and strengthened continually in the fight. The solidarity bloc in the national united Front has unceasingly expanded. Amidst the high tide of offensive and uprising of our armed forces and people, in April 1968 the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was founded, marking a vigorous development of the patriotic movement of the broad masses of the urban population, and a big success of our consistent policy of great unity. It also represented a higher degree of isolation of the US imperialists and the puppet administration, their stooge.

From the great and all-round victories of our armed forces and people have emerged vast liberated areas from the southern bank of the Ben Hai river to Cape Ca Mau. In the liberated zone, we have carried out the Front's land policy, allotting more than two million hectares to landless or poor peasants; we have guided the people in building a new life, boosting production, developing culture, education and medical work, improving their living conditions, developing the guerilla war to safeguard their life and property and oppose all schemes and acts of the enemy. To bring into full play the people's right to be master of their land, we have organized election of people's revolutionary committees at hamlet and village level, then at district, province and city levels. These committees represent a genuinely national and democratic administration born of the struggle of the masses, fighting for the people and serving their interests.

To meet the big requirements of the new stage of the fight, to further strengthen the national solidarity bloc and to perfect the system of revolutionary power in all of South Viet Nam, in early June 1969, the National Front for Liberation and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces convened an all-South Viet Nam National Representatives' Congress. The Congress elected the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and an Advisory Council of the Government. This was a great and important political event marking a new and very glorious period in the fight full of sacrifices and hardships of our people and combatants to win back their sacred national rights and the right to self-determination. Since its founding, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been recognized by, and established diplomatic relations with, 26 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America. It has also established relations with, or won the sympathy of, many other countries. This has contributed to the constant heightening of the prestige of the resistance war of the South Viet Nam people.

Along with the big victories of our armed forces and people on the battlefield, on the international arena, the world people's front in support of the Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression has expanded continually. The whole progressive mankind has energetically condemned the extremely savage crimes and peace swindles of the US imperialists, vigorously supported our people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation, backed our correct stand enunciated in the ten-point overall solution and the eight-point elaborations. The Governments and peoples of the socialist countries support our cause and accord to the South Vietnamese people increasing political support and material assistance. The governments and peoples of the peace-and justice-loving countries and the democratic organizations and progressive people in the world have supported more and more actively our people's fight for national liberation. The American people have stood up to struggle resolutely against the criminal war of aggression of the US imperialists in Viet Nam, which has cost the US so many lives and so much wealth and done so much harm to the honour of the United States.

The aggressive plans of the US imperialists have failed bitterly one after another. Yet, by their nature they remain stubborn, bellicose and reckless.

Since taking office, Nixon while talking of "peace" and "humanity," has actually prolonged and stepped up the war, and committed many more savage crimes against the Vietnamese people. He is feverishly carrying out the "Vietnamization of the war" policy, reinforcing the puppet army and accelerating the "pacification" plan with extremely brutal methods in an attempt to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration and use it as an instrument for materializing US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. The US and its puppets have perpetrated countless savage crimes in their repressive campaigns, burned and destroyed crops, razed hamlets and villages and plundered the people more brazenly than ever before. But, the more they repress, the stronger the people's struggle. In the plains and mountain regions, our people and combatants have fought persistently and valiantly, stepped up the offensive and uprising, closely combined military attacks with political struggle and political agitation among enemy ranks, broken all attacks of incroachment by the US - puppets, wiped out or disbanded a great number of enemy troops, destroyed thousands of "strategic hamlets," built the revolutionary forces, regained the control of their many vast areas and inflicted a serious defeat on the enemy's "pacification" program.

In Saigon - Cholon, Hue, Da Nang and almost all other cities in South Viet Nam, the political movement has been surging powerfully and continually, drawing various strata of the people — students, pupils, workers and other labouring masses, disabled puppet armymen, women, religious believers, intellectuals, journalists, employees of private and public organs, industrialists and traders. The slogans of struggle are focussed on the demands for daily interests and democratic rights, peace, national sovereignty and the right of self-determination of the South Viet Nam people, an end to the US aggressive war, withdrawal of US troops, overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, formation of a government that stands for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy and that would seriously talk with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam so as to find a political solution to the South Viet Nam issue. These slogans spell out the earnest and most pressing aspirations of the townspeople of different tendencies. They are sharp indictments of the urban people against the US imperialists and the traitors, their henchmen. This movement, together with the military offensive of the People's Liberation Armed Forces and the uprisings of the rural people, has inflicted a serious failure on the "Vietnamization" of the war policy.

To retrieve the "Vietnamization" of the war policy from failure, the US imperialists have sent troops to invade Cambodia, thus openly trampling upon the independence, peace and neutrality of this Kingdom, intensified the special war in Laos, taken new military adventures against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and expanded the war to the whole of Indochina. Faced with this new situation, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, side by side with the armed forces and people in the North have united and closely co-ordinated with the brother armed forces and peoples in Cambodia and Laos, attacked relentlessly and wiped out more and more troops of the US aggressors and their lackeys. Within a short period, the Khmer armed forces and people, under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea headed by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, have recorded very big victories, gained the control of two-thirds of the country's territory and liberated over three million of its population. The Lao armed forces and people under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front led by Prince Souphanouvong, have repeatedly defeated the stooge army of the US on various battlefields. The Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference has strengthened the blood-sealed militant solidarity between the three Indochinese peoples, created a posture of strategic offensive in each country, inflicted on the US imperialists and their lackeys repeated defeats and will certainly bring them to total failure.

The "Vietnamization" of the war manœuvre is very perfidious and tricky, but it is a strategic move born of the US losing position, an undertaking full of irreconcilable contradictions and weaknesses. The more the US prolongs and expands the war, the weaker and more scattered its forces become. Political dissension in the South Viet Nam towns will grow ever more serious, the people's struggle will intensify, the stooge administration will grow more and more isolated, its inner contradictions will aggravate. The economy and finance of the puppet administration will be plunged into a graver crisis and chaos. The morale of the American and puppet troops will sink to a lower ebb. The anti-war movement in the United States is surging more powerfully; the US administration will be rent by deeper division. The US and its puppets are now facing more bitter isolation and condemnation in the world than ever before. The US imperialists' complete defeat in Viet Nam and the rest of Indochina is unavoidable.

By persisting in and promoting the resistance war, by actively bringing into full play our strong and victorious posture, and by continually and powerfully attacking the enemy in all fields, we will surely smash their new scheme and win bigger victories.

Mrs and Messrs of the Presidium,
Mrs and Messrs Delegates and friends,
Dear compatriots and fighters,

The tremendous victories we have recorded in our fight against the imperialist ringleader—an utterly obdurate and brutal enemy, the common enemy of mankind,—stem from our correct military line and our revolutionary policies and methods. They stem from the invincible strength of the great nation-wide unity bloc embracing workers, peasants, intellectuals, youth, women and people of various nationalities, religious bodies, patriotic industrialists and traders, democratic personalities, overseas Vietnamese and the Chinese residents who have sided with us in the fight against the common enemy. They are victories of our nation's tradition of indomitable struggle, from the heroism of our people who would rather sacrifice everything than to lose the country and be enslaved once again.

These victories are victories of the unreserved and wholehearted assistance given by our Northern kith and kin who have done all in their power to help South Viet Nam defeat the enemy. They are closely associated with the care and concern of President Ho Chi Minh, the very beloved and esteemed leader of the whole nation.

These victories are closely associated with the firm militant solidarity of the Indochinese peoples, with the precious support and assistance of the socialist and nationalist countries, of the national liberation movements, and of the peace- and justice-loving people all over the world including the progressive American people.

In the commemorative ceremony of this glorious historical day, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Advisory Council of the Provisional-Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam:

— Warmly commend and praise the services rendered by the People's Liberation Armed Forces—regular and regional army, militiamen and guerillas—who have shown a high degree of revolutionary heroism, great courage and resourcefulness, recorded outstanding achievements and military exploits, unceasingly built their strength ever steadier, given added lustre to their nature and tradition as a revolutionary army and worthy offspring of the heroic South Vietnamese people and Vietnamese nation.

— Extol the rural people who, united millions as one, have in spite of all hardships and sacrifices, staged continual uprisings against the enemy and step by step baffled their "pacification" plan, striven to build our political and military real power, to build, defend and broaden the liberated areas, wholeheartedly helped the People's Liberation Armed Forces, actively contributed manpower and resources to the resistance, realized the slogan: "All for the battlefront, all for our victory over US aggression" and had a major share in the dramatic successes of our entire people and army.

— Glorify various social sections in Saigon - Cholon, Hue, Da Nang and the cities and areas still under the enemy temporary control who, united within an ever broader united front, have put up a valiant and persistent struggle against the US aggressors and the warlike and corrupt Thieu - Ky - Khiem puppet administration, for national and democratic rights and people's welfare, for peace, an end to the US aggressive war, withdrawal of all American troops, replacement of the Thieu - Ky - Khiem triumvirate by a government favouring peace, independence and neutrality, serious negotiations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, thereby contributing a suitable part to the big and all-sided gains of our people.

— Greatly appreciate the attitude of Vietnamese residents abroad who have constantly turned their thought towards the southern part of their beloved Fatherland, and their positive assistance to our entire people's cause against the US imperialists for national salvation.

— Congratulate all the Vietnamese forces, organizations and patriots, irrespective of their political tendencies and religious creeds, at home or abroad, those who, for many reasons, still remain in the puppet army or administration, and are coordinating actions for democratic rights, peace and national sovereignty.

On this memorable occasion from the great battlefront of the whole country, from amidst the flames of war, our people and liberation armed forces, the NFL, the Republic of South Viet Nam PRG and the Government Advisory Council extend to the Northern people and fighters, to the leaders of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National Assembly, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam Government and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front the deepest sympathy of the South Viet Nam bulwark and expound profound gratitude for their wholehearted and all-out assistance in the past 16 years as well as in the former resistance war against the French colonialists, for their comradely coordinated actions with South Viet Nam against the common enemy of the nation, in fulfilment of their sacred duty as big rear of the whole country.

On the same occasion, the NFL and PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam expressed deep gratitude toward the socialist countries for their valuable support and assistance to the South Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression for national salvation. We enthusiastically hail the big successes recorded by the fraternal Khmer and Lao army and people and are immensely grateful for the latter's firm support and joint efforts against the common enemy — the US imperialist aggressors and their stooges. We express sincere thanks for the sympathy and support of the governments and peoples of the peace- and justice - loving countries, democratic organizations and progressive personalities throughout the world and progressive Americans.

II — FURTHER STRENGTHEN AND BROADEN NATION-WIDE SOLIDARITY, PERSISTENTLY PUSH AHEAD THE FIGHT TILL FINAL VICTORY FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIET NAM, DEFENCE OF NORTH VIET NAM, TOWARD NATIONAL PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION

At present, under the impact of bitter reverses on the Indochinese battlefields, the warlike and stubborn Nixon administration is dragging out and broadening the aggressive war in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, and scheming more adventurist acts against North Viet Nam.

Our entire army and people warmly welcome and respond to the December 10, 1970 Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam Government which they consider the sacred appeal of the Fatherland.

Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom.

For decades now, the South Vietnamese people have fought without fearing any sacrifices to wrest back their sacred national rights and the right to self-determination.

So long as the US imperialists continue their aggression the South Vietnamese people will continue to resist them with arms in hand. If the US imperialits continue their reckless acts of military adventure against the North of our country, we are resolved to mete out due punishment to them. That is our people's sacred right to self-defence.

For the sake of real independence and genuine peace, we are determined to overcome all hardships and sacrifices and persist in the fight, however long it may be. No threat can intimidate us, no cunning manoeuvre can dupe us !

Our people have gone through twenty five years of war against imperialist aggression. More than anybody else, we are deeply attached to peace. We need peace to rebuild our devastated country. But the peace we want must be a genuine peace, in independence and freedom, based on the respect and guarantee for national rights and our right to self-determination, not a peace in enslavement, not a Nixonian "peace".

The ten-point overall solution formulated in the past and the eight-point initiative put forth on September 17, 1970 by the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam demonstrate our correct stand for peace.

We are ready to cease fire and stop the war when the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights are guaranteed. Our delegation to the Paris Conference declared on December 10, 1970:

"1. A cease-fire will be put into effect between the South Vietnamese People's Liberation Armed Forces and the army and military personnel of the US and foreign countries belonging to the US camp immediately after the US government has declared its readiness to operate the total withdrawal of American and foreign and military personnel from South Viet Nam before June 30, 1971. The parties concerned will immediately discuss measures to see to the safety for the withdrawing troops and to the release of captured military.

2. A cease-fire will be enforced between the South Vietnamese People's Liberation Armed Forces and the armed forces of the Saigon administration immediately after the Republic of South Viet Nam PRG and a Saigon administration without Thieu-Ky-Khiem, which favours peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, have agreed upon the formation of a tripartite Provisional Coalition Government to be entrusted with organizing general elections as proposed in the September 17, 1970 statement of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

3. The parties concerned will jointly decide on measures for the respect and strict implementation of the provisions agreed upon."

Nixon put forward the "cease-fire" offer at a time when nearly 400,000 American troops were daily committing atrocities against our people, while the warlike and rotten Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration were persecuting and repressing the people, while the fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people have not yet been guaranteed. This would amount to legalizing the occupation of the US expeditionary army and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration, and forcing the South Vietnamese people to surrender. We resolutely lay bare and reject the trick.

In the sacred fight for independence and freedom, the strength of nation-wide solidarity is invincible. The very fine tradition of great unity has been a decisive factor for our splendid successes and a powerful inspiration for our people. In the past, at present and in the future, for the great cause of the nation, for the future of the generations to come, we stand for national unity, broad unity. We have made it possible for all Vietnamese to live in concord, animated with single purpose to thwart the scheme of the imperialists and their lackeys—the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique of traitors—to "Vietnamese the war" and pit Vietnamese against Vietnamese in a fraticidal war. After the restoration of peace, we will continue to uphold the broad unity of all sections of the people, give facilities and encouragement to everybody to make his best contribution to healing the wounds of war, restoring to normal the life of the people and building a prosperous and strong country...

This policy of great unity and general concord has found a very consistent expression in the Political Program of Action of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam as well as the ten-point overall solution and the September 17, 1970 eight-point initiative.

We always stand for ever broader solidarity among the people of all walks of life, political parties, mass organizations, nationalities, religions, patriotic personalities and all other people, irrespective of political tendencies, without taking account of their past records, provided that they favour peace, independence and neutrality and are ready to join in the fighting against the US imperialists and their flunkeys to recover our sacred national rights.

We are prepared to join hands and co-ordinate actions with all forces and individuals belonging to every political conviction and religion, at home and abroad, including personalities of the present Saigon administration, other than Thieu, Ky, Khiem and who are for peace, independence, democracy and neutrality, and to enter into negotiation with them on an equal footing, in mutual respect, without coercion by either side on the other, so as to realize a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam. We welcome units or individuals — officers and men, police agents or office employees — irrespective of their past records, who really want to return to the national fold, and will duly reward their services in their support for, or participation in, the struggle against the US aggressors, for national salvation. We are ready to support, and associate ourselves with, groupings breaking away from the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate and contract an alliance with them in an eventual coalition government.

To solve the internal affairs of South Viet Nam after the restoration of peace, we advocate a provisional coalition government consisting of these three elements :

— Members of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

— Members of the Saigon administration, excluding Thieu-Ky-Khiem, who really have at heart peace, independence, democracy and neutrality.

— People belonging to various groupings, different political inclinations and religious creeds including those who, due to political reasons, have had to seek refuge in other countries but approve peace, independence, democracy and neutrality.

The suggestion of such a Provisional Coalition Government composed of the said elements is an unquestionable proof of our logical and reasonable policy of broad unity and sincere co - operation which has been endorsed by broad masses of people in South Viet Nam and the world over.

The Provisional Coalition Government will hold general elections on truly free and democratic principles, without foreign interference, without pressure from either side, to choose a National Assembly which will faithfully reflect the policy of national unity, work out a national and democratic constitution, and form the official coalition government which will expound the South Vietnamese people's will for peace, independence, democracy, national concord and neutrality.

We pursue a policy of militant solidarity and mutual support with the Kingdom of Laos and the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of reciprocal respect of each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We are also for the establishment of diplomatic relations with all other countries, irrespective of their political regime, including the United States, on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. We are willing to receive economic and technical aid without political strings attached from all other countries.

National unity is our people's most cherished aspiration. In continuation of our national historical tradition, in compliance with the fervent aspirations of our people in both zones, and on account of the present situation of our country, we believe in a gradual and peaceful reunification, on the basis of discussions and agreements between the two zones, without coercion from either side and without foreign interference.

Pending peaceful national reunification, normal relations will be restored between the two zones on the basis of equality, mutual respect and respect of each other's political regime, internal and foreign policies. The two zones will strive to widen economic and cultural exchanges and help each other in national development.

These evidently sound, logical and reasonable lines have been instrumental in strengthening our invincible national unity, frustrating "Vietnamization," and winning ever greater sympathy and support from brothers and friends in all continents for our just cause.

On this 10th founding anniversary of the NFL, the South Vietnamese people, and our entire Vietnamese people are faced with important and very glorious revolutionary tasks.

President Ho Chi Minh has taught us: "The resistance war against US aggression for national salvation of our people may have to go through more hardships and sacrifices but will surely win total victory. The US imperialists will have to pull out. Our Fatherland will be reunified. Our compatriots in the North and the South will be re-united under the same roof."

In carrying out his last wishes, the entire people and all the fighters from the mountains to the deltas, from the countryside to the cities will uphold the tradition of solidarity and unyielding struggle of our nation, build and develop our forces in all fields, persistently push ahead the war of resistance against the US imperialists and for national salvation, resolutely defeat the US "pacification" and "Vietnamization" plans, whose ultimate purpose is to impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam, compel the US to withdraw immediately all the American and satellite troops and let down the warlike Thieu-Ky-Khiem lackeys, establish a broad coalition government, realize peace, independence, democracy, neutrality and prosperity and eventual unity of the nation. Together with our fellow-countrymen throughout the land, we are determined to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the armies and peoples of fraternal Cambodia and Laos to push the US imperialists out of the Indochinese peninsula.

— The US aggressors will certainly be defeated !

— We shall surely be victorious !

— Let the South Vietnamese fighters and people valiantly march forward under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation !